



477 Midway Circle
Brunswick, Georgia 31523

January 13, 2006

Honorable Bob Lane
State Representative, District 158
226-A State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Representative Lane,

I enjoyed sharing the excitement of sight fishing for tripletail with you and Billy Bice back in the summer of 2005. While this fishery appears to be healthy, several of the fishing guides and anglers along the Georgia coast are concerned about the future (please see the attached list). I ask on their behalf and mine that you consider sponsoring a bill that would reduce the daily creel limit for tripletail from 5 to 2 fish. This action would reduce the risk of over harvest and send a clear message that Georgia values this fishery.

Each year, more anglers target the free-swimming tripletail that congregate in the shallow waters off Jekyll Island. Last year, I heard of anglers catching tripletail in other areas of the Georgia coast, as well. However, the large number of fish found off Jekyll appears to be not only unique to Georgia, but also unique along the Atlantic coast. While the popularity of sight fishing for tripletail can mean more business for guides like myself, it also has the potential to result in a large harvest. Many of the guides, including myself, have a self-imposed limit for our clients, which is much less than the state creel limit. We do this because we want to prevent over harvest and wanton waste. The angling community from the Brunswick-Golden Isles area feels so strongly about tripletail conservation that we petitioned the Georgia DNR to ask the General Assembly to establish the existing size and creel limits.

I work closely with the staff of the Coastal Resources Division of Georgia DNR to help them collect better information for fishery management. They are striving to learn more about tripletail, but staff and funding limitations are a reality. Until we know more about the tripletail populations along the Georgia coast, it is wise to be cautious.

Thank you for considering this request and for your leadership in natural resource conservation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Capt. Greg Hildreth

cc: House Game, Fish, and Parks Committee
Rep. Jerry Keen
Sen. Jeff Chapman

Commissioner Noel Holcomb
Susan Shipman
Spud Woodward

Brunswick-Golden Isles Guides and Anglers Supporting a Reduction in the Tripletail
Daily Creel Limit

Capt. Dee Blackshear, St. Simons Island
Capt. Mark Covington, St. Simons Island,
Capt. Teddy Elrod, Brunswick
Capt. Clay Fordham, Brunswick
Capt. Duane Harris, St. Simons Island
Capt. Mike Kennedy, St. Simons Island
Capt. Larry Kennedy Jr. St. Simons Island
Capt. Larry Kennedy III, St. Simons Island
Capt. Richard Latham, Brunswick
Capt. Ritchie Lott, St. Simons Island
Davis Love III, St. Simons Island
Capt. Robbie Tyrer, Brunswick
Capt. Ashley Parmelee, St. Simons Island
Capt. Brandon Simmons, Brunswick
Capt. Ed Stelle, Brunswick
Ed Peede, Brunswick